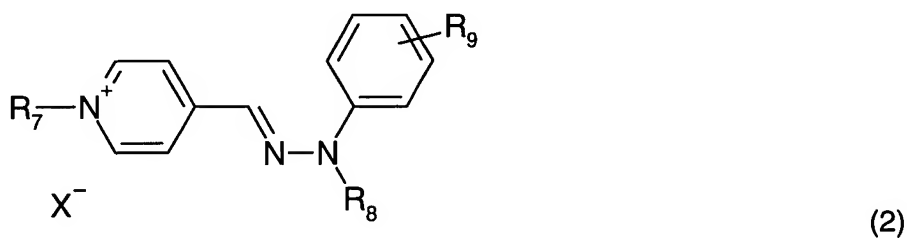
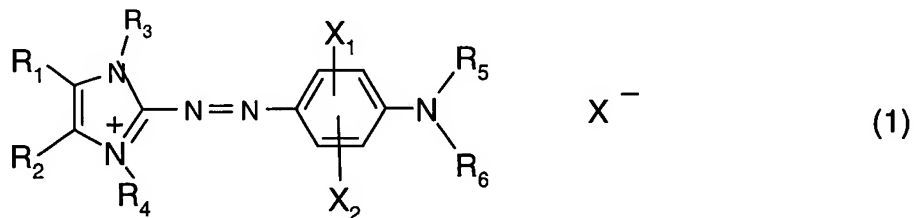
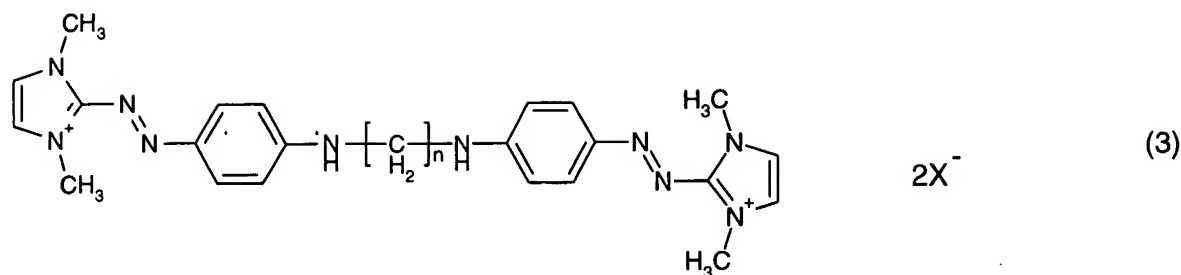


1. (original): A process for converting sparingly soluble salts of cationic organic compounds and inorganic acids into more readily soluble salts of organic acids, which process comprises
 - a) preparing a sparingly water-soluble salt of the cationic organic compound with the anion of an inorganic acid,
 - b) adding thereto, in a monohydric aliphatic alcohol, an alkali metal salt of an organic acid,
 - c) filtering off the resulting sparingly soluble alkali metal salt of the inorganic acid, and
 - d) optionally converting the resulting solution into a solid form.
2. (currently amended): A process according to claim 1, wherein ~~there is used as~~ the cationic organic compound is a UV absorber, a soft-handle agent for textiles, an antimicrobial agent, an optical brightener or a dye.
3. (currently amended): A process according to claim 2, wherein the dye is a cationic dye ~~is used~~.
4. (currently amended): A process according to claim 3, wherein the cationic dye is a monoazo, disazo or a hydrazon dye ~~is used~~.
5. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 3, wherein ~~there~~ the dye is used a dye of formula



or



wherein

R₁ and R₂ are each independently of the other hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, halogen or nitro,

R₃ and R₄ are each independently of the other unsubstituted C₁-C₄alkyl or C₁-C₄alkyl substituted by OH, C₁-C₄alkoxy, halogen, CN or by phenyl,

X₁ and X₂ are each independently of the other hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy or halogen,

R₅ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl,

R₆ is hydrogen, phenyl, C₁-C₁₂alkyl or C₅-C₈cycloalkyl, each of which may be unsubstituted or substituted by OH, C₁-C₄alkoxy, halogen, CN, or R₆ is C₁-C₄alkyl substituted by phenyl or by C₅-C₈cycloalkyl,

or wherein R₅ and R₆, together with the nitrogen atom linking them, form a piperazine ring which is substituted by C₁-C₈alkyl or by phenyl groups on the nitrogen atom not bonded to the phenyl ring or which is quaternised at ~~that~~ the nitrogen atom not bonded to the phenyl ring by means of two ~~such of~~ the groups, the C₁-C₈alkyl and phenyl ~~radicals~~ groups mentioned as substituents on the nitrogen atom of the piperazine ring being unsubstituted or substituted by OH, C₁-C₄alkoxy, halogen, CN or by phenyl, and

wherein

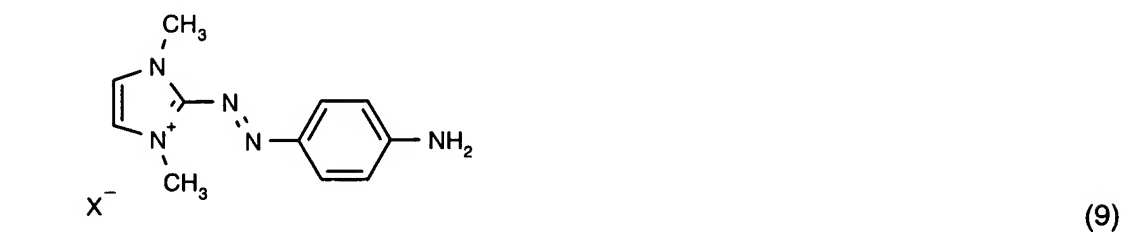
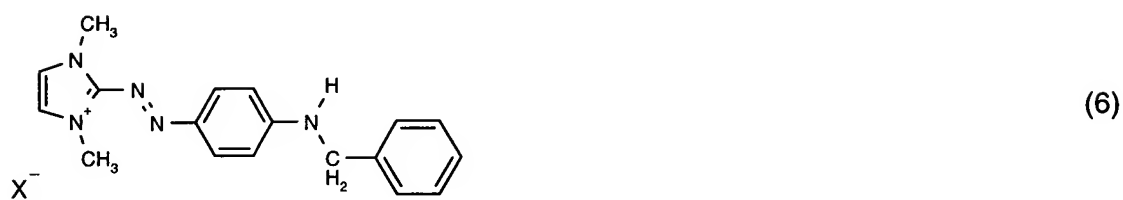
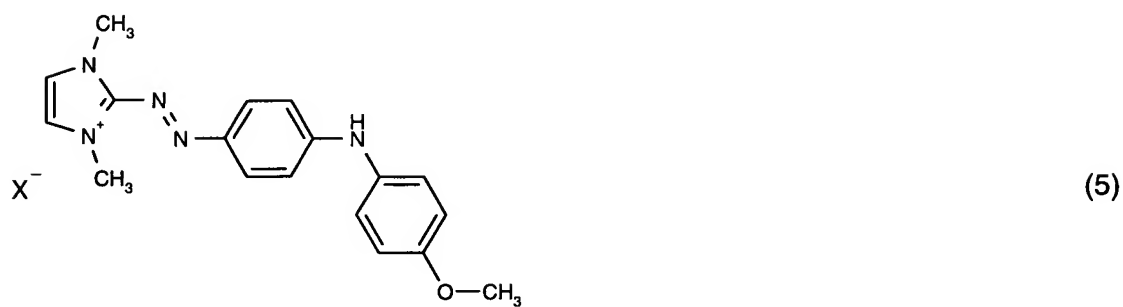
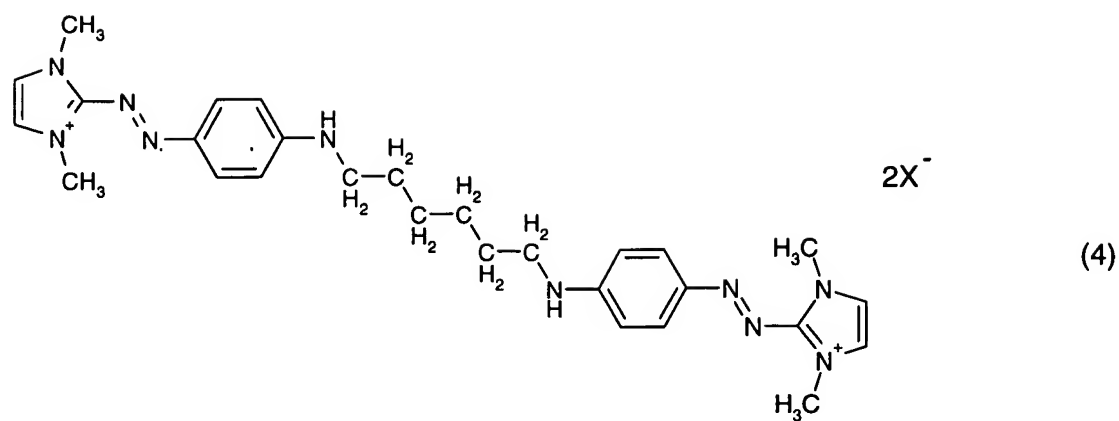
R₇ and R₈ are each independently of the other a C₁-C₈alkyl radical or an unsubstituted or substituted benzyl radical, and

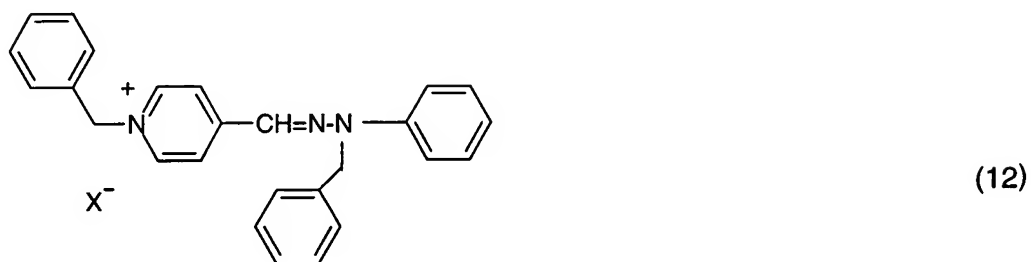
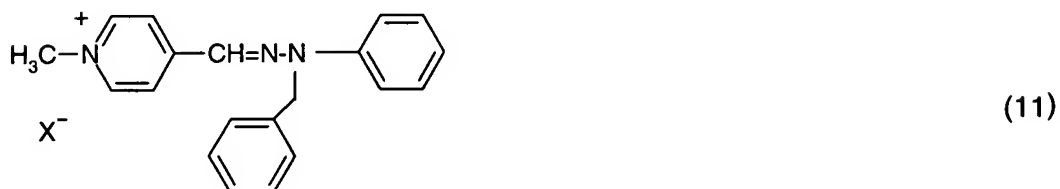
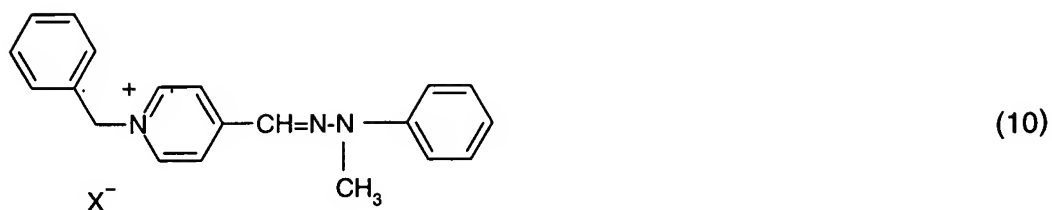
R₉ is hydrogen, C₁-C₈alkyl, C₁-C₈alkoxy, cyanide or halide, and

n is a whole number in the range from 2 to 12,

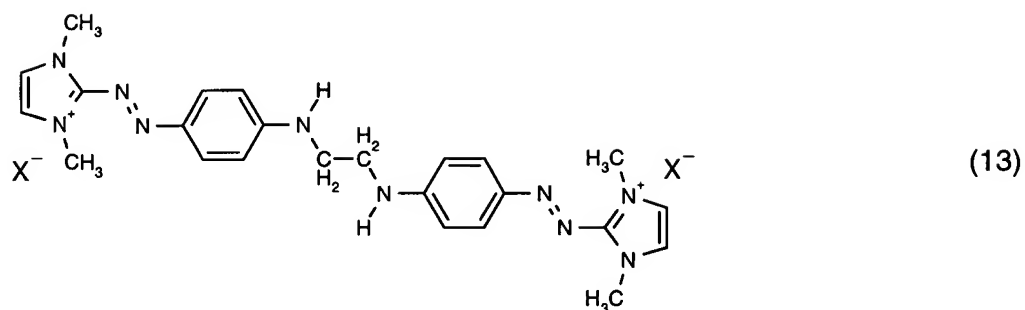
and, wherein X⁻ is an anion.

6. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 5, wherein ~~there is used a~~ the dye is a dye -of formula





and/or



wherein X^- is an anion.

7. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 6~~, wherein the anion of the inorganic acid, cationic compound is used in the form of an iodide, bromide, chloride, sulfate, hydrogen sulfate, methyl sulfate, phosphate, borfluorate or perchlorate.

8. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 7~~, wherein ~~there is used as the alkali metal salt of an~~ the organic acid salt is a formate, acetate, propionate, butyrate,

monochloroacetate, trifluoroacetate, tartrate, oxalate, stearate, maleate, acrylate, succinate, citrate, lactate, methanesulfonate or ethanesulfonate.

9. (currently amended): A process according to claim 8, wherein the organic acid salt is a formate, acetate, stearate, propionate, citrate, lactate or trifluoroacetate ~~is used~~.

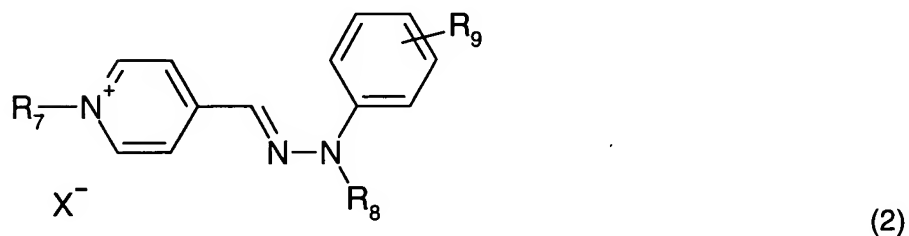
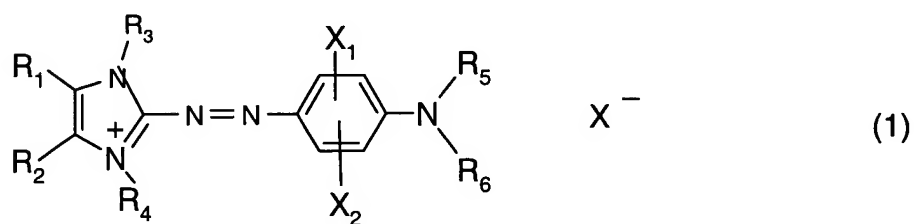
10. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 9, wherein the alkali metal salt is a lithium salt, sodium salt or, especially, a potassium salt ~~is used~~.

11. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 10, wherein the alcohol is methanol, ethanol, n- or iso-propanol, n-, iso- or tert-butanol ~~is used as the alcohol~~.

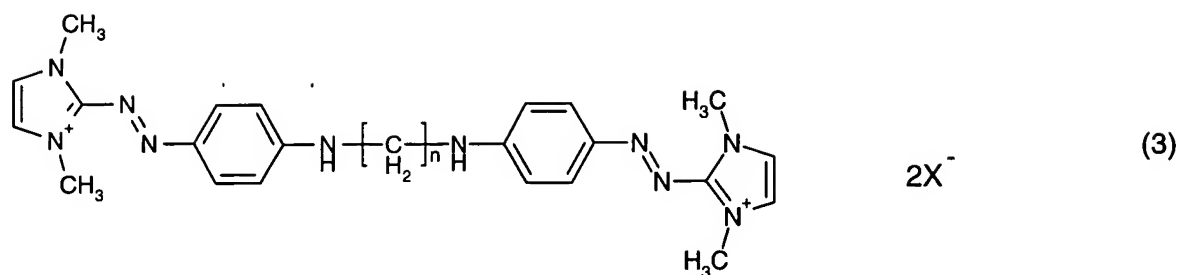
12. (currently amended): A process according to claim 11, wherein the alcohol is methanol, ethanol or isopropanol ~~is used~~.

13. (currently amended): A salt of a cationic compound, which salt has been prepared by the process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1.

14. (currently amended): A dye of formula



or



wherein

R₁ and R₂ are each independently of the other hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, halogen or nitro,

R₃ and R₄ are each independently of the other unsubstituted C₁-C₄alkyl or C₁-C₄alkyl substituted by OH, C₁-C₄alkoxy, halogen, CN or by phenyl,

X₁ and X₂ are each independently of the other hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy or halogen,

R₅ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl,

R₆ is hydrogen, phenyl, C₁-C₁₂alkyl or C₅-C₈cycloalkyl, each of which may be unsubstituted or substituted by OH, C₁-C₄alkoxy, halogen, CN, or R₆ is C₁-C₄alkyl substituted by phenyl or by C₅-C₈cycloalkyl,

or wherein R₅ and R₆, together with the nitrogen atom linking them, form a piperazine ring which is substituted by C₁-C₈alkyl or by phenyl groups on the nitrogen atom not bonded to the phenyl ring or which is quaternised at ~~that~~ the nitrogen atom not bonded to the phenyl ring by means of two ~~such of the groups~~, the C₁-C₈alkyl and phenyl groups ~~radicals~~ mentioned as substituents on the nitrogen atom of the piperazine ring being unsubstituted or substituted by OH, C₁-C₄alkoxy, halogen, CN or by phenyl, and

wherein

R₇ and R₈ are each independently of the other a C₁-C₈alkyl radical or an unsubstituted or substituted benzyl radical, and

R₉ is hydrogen, C₁-C₈alkyl, C₁-C₈alkoxy, cyanide or halide, and

n is a whole number between 2 and 12,

and

wherein X⁻ is formate, acetate, propionate, butyrate, monochloroacetate, trifluoroacetate, tartrate, oxalate, maleate, acrylate, succinate, citrate, lactate, stearate, methanesulfonate or ethanesulfonate.

15. (currently amended): A method of dyeing natural or synthetic material by treating the material with
~~Use of a cationic dye according to claims claim 13 or 14 or of cationic dyes prepared by one of the~~

~~processes according to claims 1 to 12 in the dyeing of natural or synthetic material, especially textile materials, leather, paper, glass fibres, keratinic fibres or cosmetic articles.~~

16. (currently amended): A method according to claim 15, wherein the material is ~~Use according to claim 15 in the dyeing of hair.~~

17. (currently amended): ~~Use of a~~ A cationic dye according to claims claim 13 or 14 or of cationic dyes prepared by one of the processes according to claims 1 to 12 for a wherein the dye is a liquid preparation.

18. (currently amended): ~~A Use of a cationic dye according to claims claim 17 13 or 14 or of cationic dyes prepared by one of the processes according to claims 1 to 12 for a liquid preparation, which is used for the dyeing of hair~~ wherein the liquid preparation is a hair dye.

19. (new): A cationic dye according to claim 14 wherein the dye is a liquid preparation.

20. (new): A cationic dye according to claim 19 wherein the liquid preparation is a hair dye.